

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



# *Enjoy the View*


A walking and driving guide  
to scenic Harpers Ferry







View of Potomac River from Appalachian Trail

EXPERIENCE THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY

## Walk to these vistas

All self-guiding walking tours begin at the Lower Town bus shelter.   
Ride the free shuttle bus from the Visitor Center to the Lower Town.  
Times and distances are round-trip from the bus shelter.

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| <b>1 The Point</b><br><i>Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, 19<sup>th</sup>-century bridge ruins</i> | Easy 10-minute walk to scenic overlook<br> Wheelchair accessible with assistance<br><br>Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn right at John Brown's Fort. Walk under the railroad bridge. Continue to the railing overlooking the rivers. |
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| <b>2 Footbridge to C&amp;O Canal</b><br><i>Potomac River rapids, mountain views, railroad bridge</i> | Easy 15-minute walk to scenic overlook<br> Wheelchair accessible with assistance<br><br>Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn right at John Brown's Fort. Walk under the railroad bridge. Walk up the slope. Turn left and follow the brick path onto the footbridge. |
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| <b>3 Jefferson Rock</b><br><i>Appalachian Trail, Potomac and Shenandoah river overlook</i> | Moderate to strenuous 30-minute hike along 0.8-mile trail<br><br>Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn left on High Street. Climb the stone steps on the left. Follow the trail to Jefferson Rock. |
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| <b>4 Harper Cemetery</b><br><i>Bird's-eye view of Potomac River and Harpers Ferry water gap</i> | Moderate to strenuous 40-minute hike along 1-mile trail<br><br>Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn left on High Street. Climb the stone steps on the left. Follow the trail past Jefferson Rock to Harper Cemetery. |
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| <b>5 Virginius Island</b><br><i>19<sup>th</sup>-century factory ruins, Shenandoah River rapids</i> | Easy 15-minute walk to vista<br><br><b>Pick up a trail map at the Master Armorer's House. </b><br><br>Walk under the railroad trestle toward the river. Turn right on the dirt path (Hamilton Street). Cross the footbridge over the Shenandoah Canal. Follow the Virginius Island Trail to Stop 5 for a view of the rapids. The trail continues past Stop 5 through Virginius Island, passing historic factory ruins. |
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|  <b>Short on Time?</b> | For scenic views in less than one hour, take the walking tour to <b>The Point</b> or the <b>footbridge to C&amp;O Canal</b> .<br><br><b>Hilltop House Overlook</b> (see map next page) provides scenic views in less than one hour for those who prefer to drive. |
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## Lower Town



## Drive to these vistas

### 1 Bolivar Heights Battlefield

*Mountain views, Civil War cannons, infantry trenches*

5-minute drive to overlook and 0.75-mile round-trip trail along ridge

Drive from the Visitor Center across Highway 340. Follow Washington Street as it curves to the right. Turn left at the sign for Bolivar Heights Battlefield. Park in the parking area at the top of the ridge. Enjoy the view from the trailhead or follow the trail for more vistas.

*A spur trail leads to lower battlefield trail. The lower battlefield trail features eight outdoor exhibits.*

### 2 Hilltop House Overlook

*Potomac River views*

10-minute drive to scenic overlook on private property

 Wheelchair accessible with assistance

Drive from the Visitor Center across Highway 340. Follow Washington Street as it curves to the right. Proceed 1.3 miles along Washington Street. Turn left on Jackson Street. Turn right on East Ridge Street. Park in the lot at the end of the street. Walk to the overlook at the flagpole.

*Hilltop House Hotel is privately owned. Please do not block the front of the hotel.*

## Harpers Ferry Vicinity

